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SUBJECT

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NATELLICENCE DEDCORT

COUNTRY Germany (French Zone)/France

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INFO

Andre Fribourg's Visit to the French Zona

DIST.

31 October 1947

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- About 10 September 1947, André Fribourg, a French journalist representing Figaro and several other papers, visited the French Some to make contact with a number of German political personalities. By 19 September, he had spoken with the CDU leaders Boden, a former Minister-President, and Haberer in Koblenz; the secretary of Dr. Schnitt, pishop of Mainz; a director of IG Farben and a high-ranking Catholic priest (names now given) in Ludwigshafen; Leibbrand, the Social Democrat Minister of Economy; and Gunter Markscheffel, Editor-in-Chief of the Social Democratic paper Freiheit in Mainz.
- In his conversation with Markscheffel, typical of all the conferences, Fribourg promulgated the following:
 - The purpose of his trip was to arrange with German political leaders a German-French modus-vivendi which would make unnecessary the merging of the French Zone into the Anglo-American Bi-Zone.
 - Influential French political circles admitted that in the past French policy in Germany had been misteken, impractical, and incompetent, and felt that the lirst problem was to remedy the situation immediately.
 - A tri-zonal merger is not the solution but is being forced by the Americans only because "they want to cut the throats of Germans as well as French." Only rapid decisions by courageous French and German politicians could still save the situation.
 - The practical solution, presented by Fribourg with the backing of French authoritative circles, is for France to rebuild French Zone economy completely by furnishing all raw materials

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required for the purpose. Half of the products would be at the disposal of the German economy for home consumption and export; the other half would go to France for reparations. Fribourg maintained that a majority of the German political leaders he had consulted commended this plan.

- e. Fribourg explained that the Anglo-American combination, because of the thwarting of its cherished tri-zonal plans, might not permit the export of the amount of Ruhr coal indispensable for the functioning of such a project. To avoid this danger, Fribourg proposed that Switzerland (and intimated that it would comply) buy the necessary coal from the Anglo-Americans and resell it to German industry in French-occupied widhtemberg and Baden.
- 3. According to Fribourg, his plan is part of a larger scheme to prevent the formation of a western bloc, to which the Anglo-Americans are allegedly aspiring. The first step in this direction is to prevent the Tri-7one from materializing.

Fribourg repeatedly affirmed that his mission was approved by General of the Army Koenig and made frequent allusions to influential French political circles.

Fribourg indicated Foreign

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